

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00158 080619Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 071600Z JAN 75 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8870

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 0158

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SEDU, VT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

1. VATICAN HAS INFORMED US OF THEIR GREAT SATISFACTION WITH RECENT SYRIAN HIGH COURT RULING THAT 1969 NATIONALIZATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WAS ILLEGAL. SYRIAN FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS HAVE DISCREETLY INFORMED PAPAL PRO-NUNCIATURE DAMASCUS OF DECISION AND IT EXPECTED THAT SCHOOLS WILL BE RETURNED TO CHURCH AUTHORITIES IN DUE COURSE. FAVORABLE COURT ACTION RESOLVES A LONG-PENDING SUIT INITIATED BY SYRIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY. VATICAN SOURCE OBSERVED THAT DECISION AUGURS WELL FOR FUTURE CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN SYRIA.

2. TO VATICAN'S KNOWLEDGE, NO PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN IN SYRIA TO COURT DECISION.

3. PAPAL PRO-NUNCIO FOR SYRIA, POGGI, DIED SUDDENLY LAST WEEK WHILE VACATIONING IN ROME. REPLACEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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